

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-17, and 19-29 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 14, and 23 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Amendments to the claims are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is thanked for his courtesy in speaking with the undersigned attorney for applicant regarding the subject application on October 30, 2003. The above claim amendments were proposed during the telephone discussion with the Examiner and faxed to the Examiner as a draft amendment. The Examiner indicated in a voicemail message on November 7, 2003 that the proposed claim amendments would overcome the present claim rejections. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 7-17, and 19-29 are in proper form for allowance.

During the telephone discussion with the Examiner, applicants also requested an initialed copy of the second PTO/SB/08A form that was included in the October 31, 2002 supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. As previously discussed, applicants have initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms from the May 9, 2000 Information Disclosure Statement and the June 6, 2002 supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, and the first PTO/SB/08A form from the October 31, 2002 supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The only initialed copy applicants have not received is the second PTO/SB/08A form from the October 31, 2002 supplemental Information Disclosure statement, which sets forth eleven non-patent references. Thus, applicants respectfully request a copy of the initialed form.

CONCLUSION


On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Bingham McCutchen LLP

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By: _____



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